GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:353
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2002
ASSESSMENT OF DISABLED PERSONS
SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made about the disabled population, including those with mental retardation and other mental ailments, on the basis of census 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof ,percentage-wise ,State-wise;

(c) whether any new strategy has been worked out to ensure due human dignity of life to such disabled persons; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the table of the House

Statement referred to in the reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 353 foranswer on 13.12.2002 put forth by Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde and Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, regarding `Assessment of Disabled Persons`.

(a) & (b) Data on disability has been collected through Census 2001 and is under compilation by the Registrar General of India.

(c) & (d) The Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 enforced since February, 1996, provides foraffirmative action and protective provisions aimed at social, educational and economic empowerment of persons with disabilities. This requires a multi-sectoral collaborative approach of all Ministries of the Central Government, the State Governments and other appropriate authorities.

Rehabilitation services are provided through a network of National/Apex Institutes,Composite Regional Centres, Regional Rehabilitation Centres for persons with spinalinjuries and District Rehabilitation Centres. A National Trusthas been set up for promoting the welfare of persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation andMultiple Disabilities. Under the Scheme of Assistance to Disabled persons for Purchase/fitting of Aids/Appliances and Scheme for Promotion of Voluntary Action, over 800 NGOs/Institutions have been given financial assistance during 2001-2002 for providingrehabilitation services to persons with disabilities.

Educational coverage of children with disabilities is being enhanced through Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC), Sarv Shikshya Abhiyan (SSA) and DistrictPrimary Education Programmes (DPEP), etc. The Ministry of Labour through theDirectorate General of Employment & Training (DGE&T) runs 17 VocationalRehabilitation Centres (VRCs) for providing training to the disabled persons.

Economic empowerment of the persons with disabilities is facilitated by the NationalHandicapped Finance & Development Corporation which provides concessional financial assistance to persons with disabilities through the State Channelising Agencies (SCAs)and microlending programmes. The Government is also making earnest efforts to ensure3% reservation against identified posts for persons with disabilities in Government establishments and Public Sector Undertakings.Special drives for filling up the vacancies reserved for persons with disabilities are undertaken by the recruitment agencies from time to time.